

Sarah Bates on the cost of the global airline industry >>Pages 10&11

Who is flying us to disaster?



Gabby Thorpe on the roots of the revolt >>Page 7

'We've risen up against austerity in Puerto Rico'



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JOHNSON'S GOVERNMENT IS POISONOUS

FULL ANALYSIS>>PAGES 2-5



TOPPLE THE TORY TOFF!

CLIMATE CHANGE

Extreme weather shows future of climate chaos

A WEEK of extreme weather events in Britain has given a terrifying insight into how ill-prepared it is for dramatic climate catastrophe.

People sweltered under a heatwave last Thursday as temperatures soared to over 38 degrees in across Britain.

Just days later, flooding followed two weeks' worth of rain that fell in 24 hours.

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HONG KONG



Riots erupt on the streets and defy repression

MASS PROTESTS and riots rocked Hong Kong for three days from Friday of last week. Demonstrators defied bans on protests to gather in several areas and faced down attacks from the cops.

China has called for harsher measures against demonstrators.

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ASYLUM

Activists demand no racist evictions in Glasgow

ANTI-RACISTS are demanding an immediate stop to the mass eviction threat facing up to 300 asylum seekers in Glasgow.

Serco, which runs asylum seeker housing for the Home Office, made an Iranian and an Iraqi homeless last week.

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THE THINGS THEY SAY

'He will be great'

US president Donald Trump pays tribute to Boris Johnson

'Congratulations to Boris Johnson on becoming prime minister of the United Kingdom'

Ivanka Trump advisor to President Trump

'Don't mess with Boris'

Daily Express advice to the European Union

'It is a brutal game'

Tory MP Tobias Ellwood saying he was shocked to be sacked as defence minister

'The phrase 'no longer fit for purpose' has been deemed no longer fit for purpose'

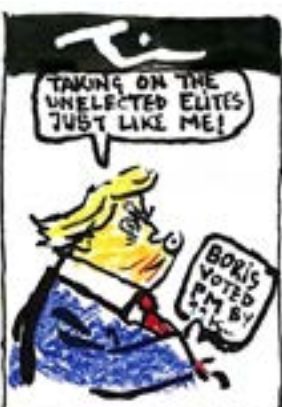
One of several phrases banned by Commons leader Jacob Rees-Mogg

'Tequila on me, Britain'

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson apologises for joking that he might be related to Boris Johnson

'You'll be dead to me'

What Tory advisor Dominic Cummings said would happen if anyone leaked government information, according to a leaked document



Dominic Raab



The foreign secretary complained about "discrimination against men" and described feminists as "among the most obnoxious bigots". Thinks workers in Britain are "the worst idlers in the world".

Andrea Leadsom



The business secretary backed restrictions on same sex education. Wants to bring back hunting with dogs.

She says fracking is "safer than most industrial processes" and that it is "ridiculous" to oppose it.

Michael Gove



The chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster wrote an Islamophobic book called Celsius 7/7. Wrote in his failed bid to be Tory leader that he backs "reducing the regulations which hold business back and cutting taxes."

Jacob Rees Mogg



The leader of the Commons, when not inventing up grammar rules, is busy explaining his opposition to women's abortion rights and his support for tax havens including the one he keeps his stash in.

Grant Shapps



Transport secretary. Resigned as minister in 2015 after revelations of bullying in the Tory party before one of its activists died. Admitted after years of denials that he had had a second job under a pseudonym.

Liz Truss



The trade secretary backs cutting taxes for the rich and cuts to business regulation. Considers younger voters as the "Uber-riding, Airbnb-ing, Deliveroo-eating freedom fighters" that are Tories' future.

JOHNSON'S EVIL MINIONS

(WELL SOME OF THEM)

Gavin Williamson



The education secretary was sacked from being defence secretary for leaking secrets over contracts with the Chinese firm Huawei. He may declare fewer wars in his new job.

Mark Spencer



The Chief Whip said a "dying" benefit claimant who hadn't eaten for five days and who was sanctioned after being four minutes late for a Jobcentre appointment should "learn the discipline of timekeeping".

Priti Patel



The home secretary was forced to resign as international development secretary in 2017 after she had held 14 unauthorised meetings with Israeli politicians. Worked as a spin doctor for the tobacco industry.

Sajid Javid



The chancellor, as a multimillionaire former banker, knows about business. He also knows how to scapegoat refugees and back racist cops stop and search as he proved in his short stay as home secretary.

Esther McVey



The housing minister said it was "right" and "positive" that people were going to foodbanks. She argues that parents should have "the final say" on whether their children learn about LGBT+ relationships.

Geoffrey Cox



The Attorney General received 11 payments worth around £400,000 which he failed to declare. He was a member of the Standards Committee at the time. Said it was an "oversight".

...and his advisors and spin doctors are as bad

BORIS JOHNSON has put a team of advisers in place who were all involved in the right wing Vote Leave campaign.

Vote Leave fought to leave the European Union on a racist, right wing basis.

Johnson's main adviser is Dominic Cummings, who headed the Vote Leave campaign.

Cummings was found to be in contempt of parliament earlier this year.

Parliament unanimously passed a motion, tabled by the government, to censure him for failing to testify at the fake news inquiry.

The inquiry looked at

correspondence between Cummings and the digital, culture, media and sport committee.

The committee was investigating fake news stories that emerged during the European Union referendum campaign.

A group of MPs last Sunday called for him to face sanctions in his new role with Johnson.

These could include denying him a security pass.

Meanwhile Johnson has put Chloe Westley in charge of his social media strategy. Westley called far right Islamophobe Anne Marie Waters a "hero"

in 2016. Waters has links to Nazi Tommy Robinson.

Westley has appeared in videos for the British branch of Turning Point, a pro-Donald Trump pressure group.

She previously worked for the right wing Taxpayers' Alliance group.

And Matthew Elliott, also of Vote Leave and the Taxpayers' Alliance, was set to be made adviser to chancellor Sajid Javid.

Elliott edits right wing website Brexit Central and is a political adviser to investment bank Shore Capital.

Dominic Cummings

Get in touch with Socialist Worker



Email reports@socialistworker.co.uk
Web www.socialistworker.co.uk
Facebook "Socialist Worker (Britain)"
Twitter @socialistworker



Newsdesk
020 7840 5656
Circulation
020 7840 5601



Write to
Socialist Worker
PO Box 74955
London
E16 9EJ

Johnson's cabinet—nasty, right wing and very racist

by SADIE ROBINSON

BORIS JOHNSON took charge as new prime minister last week—and immediately made clear that his government will be nasty, racist and right wing.

Johnson stuffed his cabinet with vicious Tories who have track records of attacking ordinary people. His takeover saw 11 ministers sacked while six others resigned.

Over half of Theresa May's old cabinet have gone, including failed Tory leadership contender Jeremy Hunt and former chancellor Philip Hammond.

Donald Trump celebrated saying, "We have a really good man who is going to be prime minister of the UK now, Boris Johnson."

"They call him Britain Trump."

Right wing rags hailed Johnson's victory. The Sun newspaper spoke of "Boris Johnson's historic government" while the Daily Mail began a countdown to Brexit.

Pledge

Johnson has reiterated his pledge to leave the European Union (EU) by 31 October, with or without a deal.

But the overwhelming majority of bosses want to remain in the neoliberal EU, as do many of their Tory backers.

So for all the talk of a "Boris bounce" Johnson is already in trouble.

In a speech last Thursday, Johnson demanded that the EU scraps the backstop, which would see Northern Ireland stay in the EU's single market.

Johnson warned that, unless the backstop is removed, Britain will leave the EU with no deal.

EU chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier described Johnson's speech as "unacceptable".

And EU Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker said Theresa



BORIS JOHNSON in Downing Street has sparked anger



May's failed deal remained "the only agreement possible".

Germany's Europe minister Michael Roth denounced Johnson's "provocations".

He said, "My message to the new British prime minister is clear—Boris, the election campaign is over. Calm yourself down."

Meanwhile senior Tories are already organising against Johnson. Hammond has reportedly held talks with other parties about how to block a no-deal Brexit.

Ridiculously Johnson tried to appear as anti-establishment.

He said politicians had "failed" young people adding, "People who voted for Brexit in the north weren't just voting against Brussels. They

were voting against London too and against all concentrations of power in remote centres."

Johnson is a millionaire, Eton-educated posho.

His agenda isn't to bring in any radical change—instead it's just more of the same.

Thousands of people protested against Johnson within hours of him becoming prime minister.

We need more action by ordinary people, not clever manoeuvres by politicians, to get him and the rest of the Tory rabble out.

On other pages...
Government even more hostile to black people >>Page 4

Spending promises for rich

IN A bid to win more support and present himself as a break with May, Johnson has made various promises to ordinary people.

On Monday he visited Scotland, pledging extra investment of just £100 million for the entire country.

It compares to his plan to spend £1 billion hiring 20,000 new police officers.

Last Saturday he visited Manchester and claimed the Tories would provide a

£3.6 billion fund for "left behind towns".

He's also promised new rail routes, improved bus services, better housing, more money for schools and the usual increased broadband access.

In reality Johnson plans to boost the rich at our expense.

So he wants to raise the threshold at which people start paying the 40 percent income tax rate from £50,000 a year to £80,000.



Money for cops

IN BRIEF

Drop in rape prosecutions

FEWER THAN one in 65 alleged rape cases reported to police last year led to a suspect being summonsed or charged.

Analysis of crime figures by the Guardian newspaper show a rapid decline in rape prosecutions in England and Wales.

Four years ago one in seven cases led to a summons or charge.

Figures also show that more people are reporting attacks.



Academies pay over £100,000

NEARLY 1,000 academy trusts paid at least one six-figure salary last year. Some 988 trusts paid at least one person £100,000 or more, while 146 paid £150,000 or more to at least one person.

The official figures also show that the proportion of trusts paying £150,000+ salaries has gone up by a fifth in one year.

Yet the number of trusts in deficit has also gone up.

One trust paying out a £150,000+ salary was the Education Fellowship Trust.

It collapsed last year after reporting financial problems and concerns about standards.

4.5 million in deep poverty

SOME 4.5 million people in Britain, or 7 percent of the population, are living in deep poverty according to new research.

Their income is at least 50 percent below the official poverty line.

The Social Metrics Commission also found that seven million poor people had been in poverty for at least two of the previous three years. The figure includes 2.3 million children.

And in 2017/18, 73 percent of children in poverty lived in a family where an adult worked.



We face a future on a scorched planet

Global Climate Strike for Future
Friday 20 September





Government even more hostile to black people

The new Tory home secretary Priti Patel is set to escalate the Tories' attacks with harsher border policies and attacks on migrants

THE NEW Tory government will make life harder for black and Asian people, and migrants. One of Boris Johnson's first announcements was a plan to hire 20,000 more cops and give them "greater powers to use stop and search".

Black people were nine times more likely to be stopped and searched than white people in England and Wales in 2017/18, according to government figures.

Under "Section 60" checks, which give police even more freedom, that figure rises to a staggering 40 times more likely.

More cops with more powers means more racist harassment of black people.

Johnson also made disgraced former international development secretary Priti Patel home secretary. Ridiculously, some hailed this as evidence of a progressive, diverse cabinet (see right).

Patel is a corrupt supporter of the racist Israeli state. In 2017 she was forced to resign after it emerged she had held 14 unauthorised meetings with Israeli politicians, officials and organisations.

Money

On her return she pushed for Britain to give money to the Israeli army. Patel has consistently voted for harsher asylum and immigration rules.

As late as 2011, she backed the death penalty. It is not progressive that she is back in the cabinet.

On becoming home secretary, Patel immediately announced plans for a crackdown on immigration.

She said an Australian-style points-based immigration system "will allow us to welcome talented individuals".

This system is geared towards meeting the needs of business at the expense of migrants.

Patel disgracefully wrote in the Mail on Sunday newspaper of wanting only the "brightest and best" to come to Britain. She attacked people

who "abuse our hospitality" or are "claiming benefits".

"We must seize the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity offered by the end of free movement," she wrote. "We will be able to give preference to brilliant scientists, academics and highly skilled workers that we want to see more of."

But even if you are classed as having enough "skills" to come to Britain, it might not be enough.

Patel said skilled workers "will only be able to come here if they have a job offer from an employer registered with the Home Office, and if they can speak English".

And in an echo of racist US president Donald Trump, she promised a "strong border to tackle illegal immigration" and keep out "terrorists" and "criminals".

All of this means more misery for desperate people fleeing war and poverty.

It feeds the myth that migrants are a problem to be "managed".

And it gives confidence to the racists that want to attack migrants and refugees on the street.

Patel hosted an international security meeting involving Britain, the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand on Monday.

It discussed how to bolster border security and deal with foreign terrorism.

Johnson's new government is talking up "threats" to justify harsher border controls and more racist immigration rules. We have to resist it.



SOME 5,000 protested against Boris Johnson in London on Wednesday of last week

There can be a movement to beat the Tories, but Labour Party is too cautious

by NICK CLARK

JEREMY CORBYN responded to Boris Johnson's election as Tory Party leader by saying that Labour is "absolutely" ready for a general election.

He said Labour is preparing a "summer campaign" of canvassing, and launched a new "pledge card" highlighting some of his party's policies.

An email sent to Labour MPs last Friday said, "It is impossible to ignore, this summer could be the start of a long campaign towards an Autumn general election."

An article on the New Statesman website claimed the summer campaign would focus on "local issues," attacking Johnson's and Tories' record, highlighting Labour's policies and growing party membership.

Corbyn told a television interview on Sunday that the campaign would be about "reducing inequality in Britain and about investing in good quality sustainable jobs for the future."

And he told a rally of activists in Parliament

Square, central London, last Thursday to campaign to "mobilise the strength and excitement, optimism and vitality of our people".

Yet right wing MPs want Labour's campaign to focus on stopping Brexit and campaigning to stay in the racist, neoliberal European Union.

Labour's pledge card promises to oppose a "bad Tory deal". And Labour leaflets reportedly promise to oppose Johnson's "disastrous Brexit."

Reflects

It reflects a recent shift by Corbyn to support a referendum on any Brexit deal, and campaign to Remain against a Tory one.

But many right wing MPs want him to go further and say Labour will oppose Brexit altogether.

A growing number of left wing commentators have fallen in behind this—and some even say it should be the focus of Corbyn's rallies.

This would be disastrous. Not only could it lose Labour votes, but it would leave working class Brexit supporters to be gathered up by the Tories or the racist Brexit Party.

Corbyn's 2017 rallies were successful because they had a mood of anti-establishment insurgency. They weren't about Remain—they

were against austerity, racism and war.

Anti-Johnson rallies held last week show it should be possible to do that again.

One of the biggest and liveliest, in central London on Wednesday of last week, was called under the slogan "Fuck the government and Fuck Boris."

The right tried to downplay the size of Labour's rally on Thursday—falsely claiming there were only 500 there. The true figure was more than double that.

Yet it is true that the size of the rally was smaller than rallies for Corbyn in the past.

This doesn't mean that Corbyn is finished.

But it does reflect that Labour's leadership is more cautious about calling rallies.

Corbyn supporters have been demobilised. Attacks from the right have demoralised them.

But they've also given little direction from a Labour leadership that is cautious about promoting rallies, and has been paralysed by attacks from the right and Brexit arguments.

Breaking out of that with marches, rallies and strikes over austerity, racism and climate change can build the kind of movement needed to beat Johnson.



Resisting the right



PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Protesters take to the streets

THERE WERE a number of rallies to protest against Boris Johnson's government last week.

Three took place in central London. Over 5,000 people, most of them under the age of 30, raged through central London last Wednesday.

"He sums up everything that's wrong with society," Deliveroo worker Sam told Socialist Worker.

"He's a racist and he's full of lies and cares only for a tiny portion of people at the top."

Helen, a local government worker, told Socialist Worker, "I am really angry that Boris Johnson has got into Downing Street."

The following day over 1,000 people joined a rally called by the Labour Party outside parliament on last Thursday evening demanding a general election.

Promised

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn promised to end outsourcing in the NHS and raise the minimum wage to £10 an hour.

The message was to wait for a general election and get ready to campaign for Labour.

Philip told Socialist Worker, "Johnson's only got a working majority of three at the moment."

"So when the time's right Labour need to table a motion of no confidence."

He said Labour supporters could "get out on the streets and show we aren't going to stand for this—we want a general election."

New Tory cabinet is only diverse in its vile bigotry

DOES IT matter that Boris Johnson's newly appointed cabinet is said to be more ethnically diverse than any of its predecessors?

It's not just the gloating right wing that thinks it does.

A layer of left-leaning commentators, including Sunny Hundal and Mehdi Hassan, have bought heavily into the idea that the establishment is now more reflective of "diverse" Britain.

The BBC's Nihal Arthanayake said the new cabinet would be a "very visible example of representation" for "Asian kids up and down the country."

It's hard not to scoff at this.

The new government shows all the signs of being among the most racist ever.

This handful of ambitious black and Asian politicians are not there to soften prejudices. They are there to provide a thin veneer for them.

Their collective track record of support for Theresa May's "hostile environment" and their cheerleading of Islamophobia speaks for itself.

The idea that "Asian kids



Sajid Javid—role model?

across Britain" will be able to draw inspiration from the very politicians that whip up hatred against them beggars belief. Yet, despite the right's record of shame in office, socialists cannot be indifferent to the question of representation even within the elite echelons of state.

Mattered

It mattered when the first African-Caribbean MPs were elected in 1987 and it mattered when Barack Obama was elected US President in 2008.

Their elections were a kick to the racist myth that black people are incapable of leadership.

But the experience of Obama in office is also an example of the weakness of the "black faces in high places" strategy.

Under his presidency the income gap between black and white Americans continued to grow.

Racism is not simply the result of having the wrong type of people in high office—it is structural.

Yuri Prasad

A longer version of this article appears socialistworker.co.uk

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

FIGHT FOR WORKERS' ACTION AGAINST JOHNSON

UNION LEADERS greeted Boris Johnson's first week as prime minister by pleading with him to improve workers' rights. Which is weak even by their standards.

Johnson's government will further attack workers and hand more money to their rich mates—while using vicious racism to divide us.

It will be a viciously right wing government and we urgently need to organise real resistance to it.

Frances O'Grady, TUC union federation general secretary, last week urged Johnson to "get on with enhancing labour protections now". "It's not right that millions of workers still don't know how much they'll earn from one week to the next," she said.

"A good start would be to ban zero-hours contracts and give low-paid workers the right to speak to a union."

Those are good suggestions. And there's nothing wrong with unions publicly calling on the Tories to stop bad policies.

But the workers' rights O'Grady spoke about, such as holiday pay, were won by unions taking action. And it will

take unions organising action—including strikes—to defend and extend those rights today.

Unfortunately many union leaders gave feeble responses to Johnson's election, saying he should hold to public spending promises he made during the Tory leadership race.

And there was no official union presence at the 5,000-strong demonstration against Johnson in London last Wednesday.

The Tories are deeply divided over Brexit. Unions should seize on those divisions to drive them out of office. Yet the for many union leaders, the main focus is not kicking out the Tories.

This week the Vauxhall car

If we only call for union leaders to organise action, we'll be waiting a very long time

UP THE FRACKING FIGHT

LABOUR LEADER Jeremy Corbyn reiterated his call for an end to fracking when he visited Lancashire's Preston New Road anti-fracking protest camp on Tuesday.

Fracking firms such as Cuadrilla are desperate to get their hands on gas trapped deep underground.

Campaigners in Lancashire have fought for years to see them off.

Fracking for two months in 2018 caused repeated earthquakes there, and forced Cuadrilla to abandon operations early.

But the firm has started moving equipment back into the site and has said it expects to resume fracking in the autumn.

Corbyn said, "We need urgent action to tackle the climate emergency, and that means the prime minister immediately banning fracking once and for all."

He's absolutely right—urgent action is needed. But the battle must match the scale of the threat.

The fight against fracking can't just be a chance for occasional photo opportunities.

Fracking is a disaster for the environment. But instead of fighting tooth and nail to stop the practice now, Labour has promised to ban it later—if elected.

And appealing to Boris Johnson is not good enough.

Corbyn should hound the fossil fuel fat cats who profit from ecological catastrophe.

And he should mobilise the Labour membership, of over 500,000 people, to take action with those fighting catastrophic climate change.

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ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



Pound zig-zags are due to Europe crisis

SOMETHING WEIRD happened when Boris Johnson became prime minister last week. No, I mean, something weird apart from Boris Johnson becoming prime minister.

The pound rose on the foreign exchange markets. The reason why this seems weird is that you might have expected a sharp fall after Johnson entered 10 Downing Street. After all, he has—more or less—committed himself to leaving the European Union without a deal if, as seems very probable, Brussels refuses to give him the terms he wants.

Given that that a no-deal Brexit is likely to bring plenty of economic disruption, you would expect the markets to bet against the pound. Instead, according to the Financial Times, it experienced “its biggest rally against the euro since May”.

The reason, however, had nothing to do with the markets’ faith in Johnson. The big story was actually the poor economic plight of the Eurozone.

The day after Johnson took over, a much more powerful figure, Mario Draghi, president of the European Central Bank (ECB), gave his own press conference.

Draghi is due to retire in October, but clearly he intends to go out with a bang. He announced that the ECB is preparing a new package of measures to stimulate the financial system, following the approach he has pursued ever since taking office in 2012. He explained, “You still see signs of strength in the economy. At the same time, this outlook is getting worse and worse and it’s getting worse and worse in manufacturing especially.

“It’s getting worse and worse in those countries where manufacturing is very important. But because of value chains, this propagates all over the Eurozone and so this must be taken into account. The reasons were basically found to be in the general uncertainty that’s now been with us for several months, actually more than a year, and which relates as I said many times to trade wars, to geopolitical tensions, too.”

Gloom

As if to confirm Draghi’s gloom, that same day “German factory executives reported that industry conditions are in ‘free fall,’” according to the Financial Times. “The Ifo Institute’s manufacturing business climate index slumped to minus 4.3 in July from positive 1.3 the previous month.

“The reading was the lowest in more than nine years” in the aftermath of the 2007-8 financial crash.

Draghi’s statement underlined the plight of all the major central banks since that crash.

They have become the main governmental drivers of economic growth, buying up financial assets and keeping interest rates very low as ways of supporting the financial system.

The efforts that these central banks have made to step away from these policies have all proved abortive because economies remain fragile. This is indicated by the low level of inflation—1.3 percent in the eurozone, way below the ECB’s target of around 1.9 percent.

But many commentators think the central banks are running low on the ammunition they need in the event of another recession. Interest rates are already too low to cut much further, and the pool of assets central banks could buy is shrinking.

Draghi underlined this by saying, “If there were to be a significant worsening in the Eurozone economy, it’s unquestionable that fiscal policy—a significant fiscal policy, mostly in some countries but also at the euro area level—becomes of the essence.” He is calling for governments to increase spending in the face of a new recession.

The problem is that the Eurozone remains locked into the austerity policies—central to which is cutting public spending—it embraced a decade ago.

Olaf Scholz, Germany’s Social Democratic finance minister, said on Thursday that it was “not a wise idea” to increase public spending, since this would lead to higher prices. This kind of deadlock between do-nothing politicians and hyperactive central bankers is another sign of neoliberalism’s impasse.

And the pound? By the end of last week it was falling, this time because the dollar was stronger. Sterling’s fluctuations seem to depend more on what happens in more powerful economic regions than on anything in Britain.



FLOODING IN Manchester, where two weeks’ worth of rain fell in 24 hours this week

Weather extremes offer view of our climate chaos future

by SARAH BATES

A WEEK of extreme weather events in Britain has given a terrifying insight into how ill-prepared it is for dramatic climate catastrophe.

People sweltered under a heatwave last Thursday as temperatures soared to over 38 degrees celsius in some places.

It was the hottest day in Britain on record, and the hottest ever July day.

Astonishing temperatures were reached in several parts of Britain. 38.7 degrees was recorded in Cambridge while other cities broke regional records.

Of the previous ten hottest days, all but two have been in the last 29 years.

Warning

But by Monday, much of the North West of England was facing a flood warning as two weeks’ worth of rain fell in just 24 hours.

Extreme weather events are set to become more regular, and more dramatic.

Both the heatwave and the floods show how vital infrastructure is unable to cope with extreme weather

Train firms advised people to stay at home or risk huge delays from damaged overhead wires or buckled tracks on Thursday of last week. In very high temperatures trains can bend the

tracks, known as buckling, causing them to derail.

And when the floods hit Manchester, many key train services were cancelled and highways closed.

Heavy rainfall and a broken pump meant parts of the A555 Manchester Airport Relief Road were completely submerged.

It was the second time the road, which only opened in October last year, has been closed due to flooding.

Canal boat owners in the city said rising water levels meant they could be

washed away. The heatwave that swept much of Europe is indicative of climate catastrophe.

Grant Allen, a professor of atmospheric physics at the University of Manchester, said, “Climate change is here and it is accelerating.

“As climate change progresses, the frequency of previously extreme weather events will increase.

“There will be a new normal, which will challenge existing UK infrastructure and profoundly impact our ecosystem.”

Thousands of people in Bristol were left without water for more than ten hours after a pipe burst.

Bristol Water said high temperatures caused the ground to shift.

Temperature records were smashed across northern Europe—many breaking a record set only a day earlier.

Event

No one particular weather event can be directly attributed to climate change.

But Earth’s temperature is dramatically changing, and the consequences threaten us all.

A hotter temperature in Britain will tear apart huge sections of everyday infrastructure. Heatwaves are a real health risk—sometimes with fatal consequences.

It’s not good enough for the Public Health England agency to issue reminders for people to drink enough water and sit in the shade.

It will need more action on the streets and in the workplaces to demand that climate change is treated like the emergency it is.

Everyone should organise walkouts for the global strike for the climate on 20 September.

For more info on the global climate strike go to bit.ly/ClimateGenStrike
For details of organising meetings go to bit.ly/ClimateStrikeMeetings

Workers plan action

ACTIVISTS are spending their summers busy organising for walkouts on Friday 20 September.

Several groups have called for a global strike for the climate on that day.

In Portsmouth, an organising meeting resolved to hold a lunchtime rally in the Guildhall Square.

“We have to fight for our future or we will not have one,” said school striker Judah.

“We need adults to work with us, we can’t do it on our own.”

In the National

Union of Journalists, a motion calling on members to become part of the movement, was overwhelmingly passed at its National Executive Council.

It also argued for members to take “the most effective activity” on 20 September.

Extinction Rebellion is preparing for “rebel camps” to hit six locations in late August and early September.

It is using them as an opportunity to build support for its second International Rebellion from 7 October.

'We've risen up against austerity in Puerto Rico'

by GABBY THORPE

PROTESTERS IN Puerto Rico stayed on the streets after the resignation of disgraced governor Ricardo Rossello.

Rossello announced that he would stand down after 15 days of protests, the biggest in the history of the US-controlled Caribbean island, earlier this month.

Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets of the capital San Juan and a one-day general strike shut down even the smallest business.

And Wanda Vazquez Garced—who was in line to take over as governor—refused the position after protesters demanded her resignation too.

She is accused of not looking into corruption claims thoroughly enough.

Pabsi Livmar from San Juan said, "It's clear at last that the country has risen up against corruption and austerity."

"People who have never marched before are now marching."

"It's not only the young fighting for a better future, but people from the countryside and from tiny villages."

"There are teachers and children, parents and grandparents and people who had voted for the very same Rossello."

The protests followed the leak of nearly 900 pages of sexist, homophobic and potentially corrupt texts between Rossello and several top officials.

Forward

But anger at a decade of austerity has continued to drive forward the movement after its demand that Rossello step down was met.

Ferdinand Rivera, a logistics worker, said the focus of the protests has gone beyond who is governor. "I'm also marching for those that were forced to leave the island due to the lack of opportunities," he said.

"I'm marching for the souls that departed after Hurricane Maria and were forgotten by this corrupt regime we live under."

Two years after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico infrastructure has not been rebuilt properly.

BACK STORY

Protests have taken place over messages between governor Ricardo Rosello and top officials

- The leaked messages included jokes about the deaths caused by Hurricane Maria in September 2017

- Comments made in the messages include threats of violence towards female politicians

- There were also homophobic attacks on Puerto Rican singer Ricky Martin

Journalist Ana Castillo Munoz was another protester who is fighting for a better quality of life. "Besides the resignation of Ricardo Rossello we want to raise our concern about the schools that were closed down and the health services that were cut," she said.

"The resignation of the governor is not everything."

Puerto Rico has been effectively ruled by the US-appointed Fiscal Control Board—a group of bankers that oversee the island's "debt restructuring"—since 2016. This has meant more austerity.

Abusive

Tere Marichal-Lugo said, "We have to take it to the street and express our rejection of the colonial government and its long streak of abusive acts."

Rossello's resignation has sparked a power struggle in his right wing New Progressive Party, but no challenger offers any alternative for ordinary people.

But Pabsi said the protests are a beacon of hope for real change.

"Without a doubt life for Puerto Ricans has been very hard, which helps to explain these collective feelings of anxiety and disappointment," she said.

"But now we are witnessing an awakening that is leaving a profound mark on us, giving us strength and uniting us more than ever before."



On other pages...

Democrats back Trump's bonanza for the military >>Page 17



ON A mass protest demanding the resignation of Puerto Rican governor Ricardo Rosello

RUSSIA

Crackdown on protests as Putin fears challenge in upcoming local elections

RUSSIAN POLICE arrested thousands of protestors in the capital Moscow on Saturday of last week.

Cops broke up the 6,000-strong demonstration as part of a clampdown ahead of rigged city council elections in September.

One eyewitness told Socialist Worker, "The crowd was chanting, 'We won't give you this part of the town.'"

"Parts of the Tverskaya Street were cordoned off and large numbers of people were trapped by the blockades. There was a major police presence in the parallel streets, with rows of special riot police and regular officers."

"Many more were held in reserve down the side streets."

"The demonstration was effectively isolated, people couldn't join it and large numbers of people were trapped by the blockades."

"Police were dragging some people away."

The local elections have become a focus for opposition to Russian president Vladimir Putin and the right wing United Russia



Police line up against protesters in Moscow

party. Authorities barred around 30 opposition candidates from standing, in a sign of growing jitters in the Putin regime.

Putin has ruled Russia since 1997 through force and fraud.

While maintaining United Russia's rule, the regime helps satellite parties that act as a safe outlet for left wing or nationalist discontent.

It's a sign that Putin fears real opposition. But the opposition that has emerged is contradictory.

Many of the barred candidates

are supported by Alexei Navalny's Russia of the Future party. He was jailed for supporting the protests and was rushed to hospital with symptoms of poisoning last week.

Navalny is a Russian oligarch who became a champion of democracy when he fell out with Putin. He supports Russian nationalism and sees free market policies as the solution to corruption and authoritarianism.

Winning real change in Russia will require rejecting Putin and the free market.



Hong Kong protesters defy state's violence

Protesters fighting the extradition bill have been subjected to horrific attacks, writes **Sadie Robinson**

MASS PROTESTS and riots rocked Hong Kong for three days from Friday of last week.

Demonstrators defied bans on protests to gather in several areas and faced down attacks from the cops.

China has called for harsher measures against demonstrators. Government spokesperson Yang Guang denounced what he called “rampant violence” by demonstrators, which he blamed on a “few radicals”.

“The most important task is to resolutely punish violent crimes, restore social stability and safeguard Hong Kong’s legal system,” he said on Monday. “Hong Kong is China’s Hong Kong.”

In reality, it is protesters who have faced violent and criminal acts from police and others. Masked men suspected to be pro-government triad criminal gangs attacked demonstrators in Yuen Long with sticks and metal bars earlier this month.

Cops fired tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters who joined a banned rally in Yuen Long against the attack last Saturday. They baton-charged protesters resting in the train station. The attack left 24 people injured, two in a serious condition.

Yuen Long resident Simon Cheng said there was “no difference” between the actions of the cops and the triads. But he said violence from the police was worse “because they are government approved and have deadly force”.

Barricades

On Sunday, riot police fired volleys of tear gas at pro-democracy protesters close to the Liaison Office, Beijing’s office in Hong Kong. Protesters set up barricades and blocked roads in Causeway Bay.

Several demonstrations took place across Hong Kong. In some areas, local residents opened their homes to protesters so they could escape police attacks.

Protesters are fighting a new law that would allow for extraditions of

BACK STORY

Protests over the extradition bill began in June

- Tens of thousands of people on the streets forced the bill to be suspended
- Activists want it scrapped completely
- The movement has faced violence from cops and armed triad gangs
- People are taking up wider demands about independence from China and democracy

suspects to mainland China. But the movement has grown to demand wider changes.

They want an inquiry into police brutality, the freeing of arrested demonstrators and the resignation of Hong Kong’s leader Carrie Lam.

Protests forced Lam to suspend the extradition law within days. But demonstrators want the whole thing scrapped.

The movement represents a serious challenge to China’s authority.

As the People’s Daily, an official newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party, put it, “If this can be tolerated, what can not?”

The Chinese state and its media backers have blamed the protests on “Western interference”. In reality they are actions that have involved millions of people fighting to defend their rights.

Some protesters have raised the Union Jack flag, in reference to Britain’s previous control of Hong Kong. But Britain has an appalling record in Hong Kong and looking to the West isn’t the way to win.

Protests are planned all over Hong Kong over the next three weeks. There are also plans for a city-wide strike. Building up this kind of action can win real changes.



On other pages...

Who’s flying us to disaster?
>>Pages 10&11

COPS LINE up to take on protesters

Game of battleships ramps up in Gulf

by **NICK CLARK**

A **SECOND** British warship arrived off the coast of Iran on Monday of this week. It is part of the latest escalation of British and US threats of war against Iran.

Britain said the warship is to protect British-flagged ships in the Strait of Hormuz near Iran.

It comes after Iran seized a British-flagged oil tanker earlier in July in retaliation for the seizure of one of its own tankers by Royal Marines.

Britain and the US claim the Iranian tanker was attempting to sell oil to Syria, breaking a European Union embargo. They

also suggest Iran may be behind alleged sabotage of oil tankers in the region.

In reality they are deliberately escalating a confrontation with Iran in an attempt to maintain the US’s dominance in the Middle East

■ **SERGEANT MATT Tonroe** died on a joint operation with US forces in Syria in 2018. Initially his death was blamed on a roadside bomb.

But the Ministry of Defence has had to admit that Tonroe was killed by “friendly fire”.

His death came at a time when the government were denying there were British soldiers in Syria at all.

HMS Duncan has arrived

FIGURE IT OUT

117 million pounds worth of Palestinian taxes reportedly withheld from the Palestinian Authority

26 years since the failed Oslo agreement that was supposed to create a Palestinian state

2 states—a solution proved impossible by successive Israeli governments

ISRAEL has reportedly transferred some £117 million worth of Palestinian taxes to the Israel Electric Corporation rather than to the Palestinian Authority (PA).

The move is designed to punish the PA for paying benefits to the families of Palestinians held in Israeli prisons.

It’s also meant to

pressure the PA into signing up to a deal that would hand more land to Israel.

Israel collects taxes on behalf of the PA as part of the failed 1993 Oslo agreement that was supposed to create a Palestinian state.

But Israeli governments have proved a two-state solution—a Palestinian state next to Israel—

impossible by building on occupied Palestinian and making sure negotiations broke down.

It wants to force the PA into agreeing to a deal that abandons Palestinian statehood altogether. Its government agreed last year to freeze and deduct funds passed to the PA, hoping to push it into economic crisis.

Mann has vile record

IN ONE of her final acts as prime minister Theresa May appointed right wing Labour MP John Mann as “independent” adviser to the government on antisemitism.

Not only is Mann providing cover for the architects of the “hostile environment”, this episode is the latest in a long line of right wing interventions.

In 2013, Mann was a witness in an action against the UCU union over its support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign, which Mann declared to be antisemitic.

The tribunal dismissed the case. It said Mann “clearly enjoyed making speeches” but seemed unable to “explain what the [union’s] antisemitic behaviour was supposed to have consisted of”.

In 2016 he attacked Labour’s Ken Livingstone as a “Nazi apologist”.

In 2014 Mann and others wrote to Labour leader Ed Milliband blaming European Union migrants for “pressure on wages, welfare, housing and public services”.

Mann will no doubt use the opportunity to further his attacks on Labour and Palestinian solidarity.

He will ignore the Tories’ partnership with parties rehabilitating wartime collaborators in the Holocaust. Mann will work alongside Lord Pickles.

As Conservative chair, Pickles defended the annual commemoration of the Latvian Waffen SS by the For Fatherland and Freedom party.

Many of the Latvian Waffen SS were veterans of pro-Nazi death squads who took part in the Holocaust.

Rob Ferguson
East London

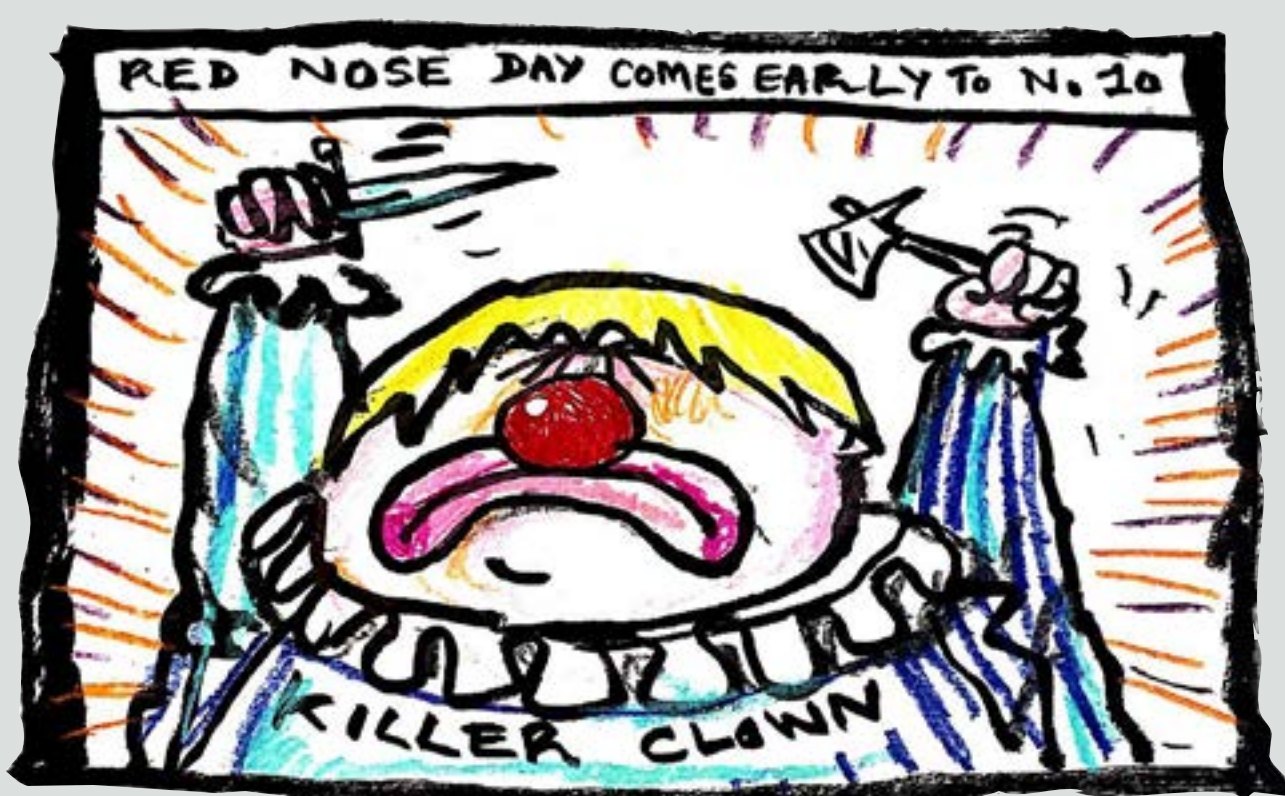


ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Robbed by pension change, but women are fighting back

MANY WOMEN are taking part in the “We paid in you pay out” campaign on Facebook and protests around the country.

They have virtually been ignored by the media.

Women born in the 1950s are struggling to manage due to changes in retirement age.

Many are not receiving their pensions as expected at the age of 60 and have had no time to make alternative plans.

Many women have to either manage on virtually no money or continue working into our mid-60s and beyond.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) said letters were sent out warning us of these changes. But not one person

received any notice! Iain Duncan Smith, when secretary of state, said that these women would go away.

Well, we have not gone away and we are fighting to rightly receive what we paid in for all our working lives.

We were promised when we started working, in my case at the age of 16, that we would retire with our pensions at 60.

Where has the money gone that we and our employers paid in?

That money does not belong to the government—for them to dip their sticky fingers into our pension pot is theft.

Some women in their 60s are having to decide between eating a sandwich or having electricity on.

As one of the most wealthy countries in the world, MPs should hang their heads in shame.

We already have the lowest pensions in the whole of Europe.

Some of us are not in good health and are unable to work even part time.

I have a life-limiting illness, so might not live to receive a penny of what is rightfully mine.

Where has the money from those who died before reaching pension age disappeared to?

There should be an excess amount in the pot, not a deficit.

There are several groups that are growing every day fighting to end this injustice.

Carole
By email

Just a thought...

Not fooled by the coppers

I READ Alistair Farrow’s article on police violence (Socialist Worker, 17 July).

When I was at junior school in the 1970s, the teachers got us to write what we thought of the police.

One kid wrote, “Police is bastards.”

The teachers organised visits by local coppers, who drove people round in police cars and let them use walkie talkies.

At the end the teachers asked us to write what we thought of the police again.

The same child wrote, “Police is cunning bastards.”

Will Counsel
Peterborough

●ONE OF Boris Johnson’s first announcements was that he is going to put thousands more cops on the streets of London.

That will be even more people to harass, assault and kill black people.

It means we are less safe, not safer.

Alicia Mount
South London

Cartoons can shame system

THANKS TO Tim Sanders for his revealing and thoughtful letter on the threat to political cartoons (Letters, 24 July).

Once again the Guardian newspaper has disgraced itself with its censorship of Steve Bell, whose cartoons I have appreciated for 40 years.

In the current era, we need more, not less, cartoons that can cut through the hypocrisy and shine a bright light on the reality of this out of control capitalist world!

John Murphy
Stockport

Climate chaos is with us now

YOUR ARTICLE on the heatwave last week exposed how rubbish the system is (Socialist Worker online, 25 July).

It’s a disgrace that so little attention is given to making sure that things such as transport and water supplies can cope with a changing climate.

Climate chaos isn’t a threat in the future, it is here already.

Claire Tasher
Liverpool

Brighton strike showed mood for climate action

ABOUT 300 school students assembled in central Brighton last Friday for the sixth student climate strike this year.

The march had only just set off when protesters sat down in the main traffic artery and blocked the road for 20 minutes.

At a rally, students spoke from different schools.

An Indonesian student deplored the dumping of plastic waste in her country by Western nations.

The last speaker reminded strikers of the call for a nationwide strike on 20 September. They urged everyone to build for the biggest stoppage possible.

Earlier, a UCU union member had told students about a motion calling for a general strike over climate change that will be debated by the TUC in September.

They received enthusiastic applause.

Steve Guy
Brighton

Don’t apologise to hypocrites in media

THE RECENT week of rebellion in Bristol organised by Extinction Rebellion (XR) saw significant mobilisations including workshops and road blocking.

It also saw a backlash from local media and political figures.

Media outlets used a case where a person couldn’t get to the bedside of his father before he passed away to attack the whole action.

Mayor Marvin Rees also criticised the action. The hypocrisy of the media was



XR action in Bristol

not lost on many.

When is Richard Branson hauled up when his trains fail to arrive on time or private bus operators when they don’t run unprofitable routes? However some

people felt defensive and some spokespeople for XR apologised.

While understandable, it was a mistake.

All movements that challenge the power of those at the top face ideological attacks and the lesson from the past is—don’t give an inch.

This doesn’t mean one can’t discuss strategy and tactics and this was done in many large XR meetings across Bristol this week.

Huw Williams
Bristol



WHO'S FLYING US TO DISASTER?

New 'green' plans from the Tories won't tackle airline pollution. They are aimed at making ordinary people pay for climate change, writes **Sarah Bates**, yet it's the rich that pollute the most

AS MILLIONS of ordinary people get ready for a holiday, the government has announced it is considering adding an optional "carbon charge" to flights. It said this could be used to pay for schemes to offset greenhouse gas emissions.

The Tories are trying to look "green" as more people call for action to deal with climate chaos.

Even Boris Johnson pledged to bring in "electric planes" in his first parliamentary speech as Tory prime minister last week.

But while it's true that aviation is a major factor behind climate change, it isn't true that we are all equally to blame.

The solutions put forward by the Tories and the bosses won't stop climate chaos—they will just try and make us pay for it.

Transport is the largest single contributor to total emissions in Britain, accounting for 27 percent. And the contribution to those emissions made by air travel is growing.

A widely-accepted figure for aviation's contribution to carbon emissions is around 2 percent.

But author of Climate Change and Aviation Stefan Gossling said the figure is significantly higher. He puts the figure at 5 percent "as a minimum" due to other emissions produced by flights.

These include nitrogen oxides and sulphates, compounds that trap heat and contribute to global warming even more when emitted at a higher altitude.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change agrees. It said the warming effect of aircraft emissions is 1.9 times the amount of carbon emissions, due to other gases produced by planes.

Gossling said, "On an individual level, there is no other human activity that emits as much over such a short period of time as aviation, because it is so energy intensive."

But not all plane travel pollutes equally.



HEATHROW

Johnson's lies about airport expansion are back to haunt him

BORIS JOHNSON infamously promised to fight Heathrow expansion.

"John McDonnell, I will join you," he said. "I will lie down in front of those bulldozers and stop the construction of that third runway."

He made the announcement at the election count for his seat in the Uxbridge and South Ruislip, which is under the Heathrow flightpath.

But when parliament voted on the expansion plans, Johnson left the country and missed the vote. It's almost like he didn't mean it.

The privately chartered jets of the super-rich belch out pollution while only carrying a few passengers.

And the World Bank estimates that flying business class and first class emits around three times the amount of emissions as passengers in standard.

A World Bank study in 2013 estimated that some first class seats could have a "carbon footprint" as much as nine times the size of a standard one.

That's because the seats are bigger—making it more fuel-intensive to move fewer people.

The Tories and their boss friends want to limit the massive changes we need to deal with climate change. So they focus on "solutions" that largely protect business as usual.

For instance, the latest "carbon charge" won't actually reduce air emissions. It will just force ordinary people to pay the price for polluting industries—while letting pollution continue.

Conservation

Some airlines already offer "carbon offsetting" packages during the booking process. This is outsourced to firms such as Sustainable Travel International Ltd, where customers can donate to a wind farm or a forest conservation programme.

Governments should be investing in these things—and on a much bigger scale. Instead they are looking for ways to snatch more money from ordinary people, while allowing polluting industries to keep expanding.

Another fake solution to the climate crisis is biofuels. Some say these compounds, a mix of standard fossil fuels with other sources, are the most viable alternative. And in the last decade some firms have switched to using more biofuels.

But all fossil fuels need to be left in the ground—not used as a basis for new types of fuel.

There's no doubt that cutting air transport will have to be part of any plan to slash emissions. Airlines carried 4.3 billion passengers globally in 2018—an increase of 38 million on the year before.

And the International Civil Aviation Organisation says



that by 2020 global international emissions are set to be 70 percent greater than in 2005.

But we can't fight climate change with measures that make ordinary people's lives harder, such as extra charges.

The Yellow Vest movement in France was sparked by a fuel tax rise



Carbon charges don't cut emissions but make ordinary people pay for the climate crisis

that was allegedly aimed at tackling emissions and climate change.

Some portrayed Yellow Vests as undermining the struggle against climate change—yet Yellow Vests have joined climate protests.

They aren't unconcerned about the planet, but they refuse to accept that saving it means ordinary people must be worse off.

So what are the real solutions? Some environmental activists shun air travel completely. School striker Greta Thunberg famously posts pictures of her international train travels.

Others prefer the idea of a compulsory "frequent flier levy," where air travel gets progressively more expensive the more a person flies.

This goes more to the heart of the issue.

A 2014 study revealed that 70 percent of the flights in Britain were taken by 15 percent of people.

The pollution crisis isn't caused by families spending a week in a holiday resort in the summer, but business fat cats flying throughout the year.

The Tories' carbon charge doesn't address the fundamental problems with air travel.

A genuine attempt to cut emissions would mean a raft of measures to make sure people can travel without being priced out of aeroplanes.

It would require huge investment in public transport, in particular cheap high speed railways fit for international travel. It would also need to challenge a system where people feel forced to use fast air travel because they have such limited holidays from work.

And it would need a programme of renewable energy to help break the stranglehold of fossil fuels.

Without pouring public resources into these far-reaching measures, any attempt to address carbon emissions won't get off the ground.



Greta Thunberg—trains not planes

Bosses think runway is 'done deal'

IN BRITAIN, the frontline of the battle against the airline industry is Heathrow Airport.

West London residents have mounted serious opposition to the expansion of Europe's busiest airport for decades.

And this week the High Court gave permission for campaigners to legally challenge plans for a third runway.

MPs voted in June last year to go ahead with the expansion.

Campaigners will argue in the Court of Appeal in October that plans don't take account of the impact on air quality, climate change, noise and congestion.

John Stewart, chair of residents campaigning group Hacan, told Socialist Worker that the victory was "big news".

"It's given local people a bit of a bounce and a bit of hope," he said.

The airport's most recent plans have unveiled the utter destruction that a third runway would cause.

It would require destruction of parks, knocking down homes, destroying villages and displacing communities.

Those residents remaining would face years of non-stop work

to build over the M25, re-route rivers and construct new roads.

Before the runway is even built, bosses want to add an extra 25,000 flights a year into Heathrow.

In the year since parliament voted, the explosion of Extinction Rebellion (XR) and worldwide school strikes has shifted debates about climate change.

"I think we're all a bit surprised about what an impact XR has had," said John.

"It has put concern about the



Protesting at London's Heathrow

climate in the mainstream.

"No issue stays on top of the agenda for forever and a day, but a corner has probably been turned."

Heathrow boss John Holland-Kaye responded to Boris Johnson's victory as new Tory leader by calling the third runway "a fait accompli".

He said the project was, "a critical part of any new prime minister's agenda".

But John Stewart said that Heathrow bosses are "worried about the political situation—it's the one thing they can't control". "The situation is a crisis for the local Tories," he added.

A third runway can be stopped. The government will next year have to agree or disagree with planning inspectors' recommendations, following a public consultation.

This creates a window of opportunity. Far from being a lost cause, the battle against expansion needs to be bigger and stronger than ever.

"We're going to tap into this renewed concern," said John.

"And we're going to tap into a new wave of optimism that we can stop the third runway."

Boeing are not clear for take-off

PLANE TRAVEL isn't just polluting—company cuts might kill you.

On 29 October last year all 189 people on board a Lion Air flight died as it plunged into the Java Sea 13 minutes after take-off.

And on 10 March this year an Ethiopian Airlines flight suffered a similar fate, claiming 157 lives.

Both were Boeing 737 Max—a model that had only been in operation since May 2017.

"Anti-stall" devices

malfunctioned in both crashes and locked the planes into irreversible nose dives.

Paul Njoroge lost his wife, mother-in-law and three children in the Ethiopian Airlines crash and spoke at a US congressional hearing last week.

He accused Boeing of "utter prejudice and disrespect" and blasted the firm for focusing on profits "at the expense of the safety of human life".

Both were Boeing 737 Max—a model that had only been in operation since May 2017. "Anti-stall" devices

shines a light on the deadly capitalist priorities of the aviation industry.

Plans to develop the Max were announced three months after rival Airbus launched its new plane.

The Airbus A320neo received a record number of orders

at the June 2011 Paris Air Show—spurring Boeing bosses into action.

Instead of designing a new plane, engineers bolted a new, more efficient engine onto existing structures. Law

regulation and a cosy relationship with a federal regulation body meant Boeing could self-certify that the planes were safe.

Since the model has been grounded, US regulators have found yet more problems with it.

But still the firm is planning to rebuild—and rename—the model.

Last month it emerged that the firm outsourced vital safety work to subcontractors.

Boeing admitted that it knew in 2017 that a warning light that told crew about the sensor issue wasn't installed correctly.

It didn't tell regulators until it was too late.



Boris Johnson lied. He will not oppose Heathrow expansion

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

BRIGHTON & HOVE

50 years since Stonewall—why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Thu 8 Aug, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

How do we fight back? Socialists, strikes and trade unions

Mon 5 Aug, 6pm,
The Snug,
Ma Cameron's,
6-8 Little Belmont St,
AB10 1JG

BARNSELEY

The Peterloo Massacre—the fight for democracy and freedom

Thu 8 Aug, 7pm,
Room 302, The Civic,
Hanson St,
S70 2HZ

BOLTON

Follow the money—who's funding the far right?

Wed 7 Aug, 7pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

BRISTOL

Social movements, public opinion and the mass media

Thu 8 Aug, 7.30pm,
YHA,
14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

The people's history of the Portuguese Revolution

Wed 7 Aug, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CARDIFF

The myth of overpopulation

Wed 7 Aug, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

CHESTERFIELD

Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?

Thu 8 Aug, 7pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St, S40 1QN

COLCHESTER

Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?

Thu 29 Aug, 8pm,
Oyster Room, Hythe
Community Centre,
1 Ventura Drive, C01 2FG

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS



COPS TRY to control the Yellow Vests in France

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests... What is the role of the police?

BIRMINGHAM

Wed 7 Aug, 7pm,
The Church at Carrs Lane,
Carrs Ln,
B4 7SX

DUNDEE

Wed 7 Aug, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Wed 7 Aug, 7.30pm,
William Morris
Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,
Walthamstow, E17 6QQ

NEWCASTLE

Wed 7 Aug, 7pm,
Floor 2, Commercial
Union House,
39 Pilgrim St,
NE1 6QE

EDINBURGH

Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?

Wed 7 Aug, 7.30pm,
The Strathie,
17 Iona St,
EH6 8SG

EXETER

Trump, racism and nuclear war—how do we stop them?

Tue 6 Aug, 7pm,
The Old Meeting
Unitarian Chapel,
EX10 8ER

GLASGOW

Corbyn, antisemitism and the Labour Party

Thu 8 Aug, 7pm,
Avant Garde,
33-44 King St,
Merchant City,
G1 5QT

HUDDERSFIELD

Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?

Wed 7 Aug, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade
(near both train and
bus stations),
HD1 5JP

HULL

Why is capitalism addicted to plastic?

Thu 22 Aug, 7pm,
Cafe licious,
104 Cottingham Rd,
HU6 7RZ

KENT

Climate change and the myth of overpopulation

Thu 8 Aug, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre
(Conference Room),
272 High St,
Chatham,
ME4 4BP

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Thu 8 Aug, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LONDON: HACKNEY

Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?

Thu 8 Aug, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd),
E5 0PU

LONDON: HARINGEY

60 years on from the revolution—where is Cuba going?

Wed 7 Aug, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd
(corner Vincent Rd),
N15 3QH

LONDON: ISLINGTON

With the media behind him—how can we beat Johnson?

Thu 8 Aug, 7pm,
Elizabeth House,
2 Hurlock St,
Highbury,
N5 1ED

LONDON: NEWHAM

Is our diet destroying the planet?

Wed 7 Aug, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next
to Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP

LONDON: SOUTH

What's behind the destruction of the natural world?

Wed 7 Aug, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd,
Brixton, SW2 1EP

LONDON: SOUTH EAST

Repression and resistance—where next for the Sudanese revolution?

Wed 7 Aug, 7pm,
Deptford Lounge,
9 Giffin St,
Deptford,
SE8 4RH

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

The Peterloo Massacre—the fight for democracy and freedom

Wed 7 Aug, 7.30pm,
Weavers Community Forum,
10 Shacklewell St,
Shoreditch,
E2 7EG

LONDON: WEST & NORTH WEST

Why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Thu 8 Aug, 7.30pm,
Woodlane Community Centre,
78 White City Cl,
Shepherd's Bush,
W12 7DZ

MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

Capitalism and species extinction

Wed 7 Aug, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

NORWICH

Do we need a revolutionary party?

Wed 7 Aug, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

NOTTINGHAM

50 years since Stonewall—why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Wed 7 Aug, 7pm,
International
Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd,
NG1 3FN

OXFORD

60 years on from the revolution—where is Cuba going?

Wed 7 Aug, 7.30pm,
Restore Building,
Manzil Way, OX4 1YH

PORTSMOUTH

Do we need a revolutionary party?

Wed 7 Aug, 7.30pm,
Somerstown
Community Centre,
River's St, PO5 4EZ

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Will the revolution be tweeted? Socialism and social media

Thu 8 Aug, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near
Crucible Theatre),
S1 2JB

SWANSEA

After the election of Boris—how can we end Tory rule?

Thu 8 Aug, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

Socialism—Utopian and Scientific

Wed 7 Aug, 7.15pm,
Light House,
Suite 16, Chubb Bldg,
Fryer St, WV1 1HT

YORK

50 years since Stonewall—why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Wed 7 Aug, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

LONDON

Oppose fascist 'Tommy Robinson' and his Nazi friends

Sat 3 Aug, 12 noon,
Central London,
SE1 8

NATIONAL

General strike for the climate

Fri 20 Sept
National
For more information, go to
bit.ly/ClimateGenStrike

NATIONAL

International conference against racism & fascism

Sat 19 Oct,
Friends Meeting House,
Euston, NW1 2BJ
Organised by Stand
Up To Racism
Go to bit.ly/RacismConf

NATIONAL

Cuba, the Pink Tide and revolution in Latin America

Sat 26 Oct, 2.30pm,
Central London,
Hosted by the International
Socialism journal

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You could be dancing in the dark to Blinded By The Light

Latest film from Bend it Like Beckham director relies on cliches but it still provides a strong story that will infuriate the racists, writes **Nick Grant**

JAVED IS a young man of Pakistani heritage living in 1980s Luton.

His dad Malik works on the track at a Vauxhall plant. His mum Noor works to look after the family, and sits at the sewing machine most nights doing piece work.

At sixth form college Javed has nobody to share his writing obsession with—just like at home.

Then his new Sikh mate Roops gets him into Bruce Springsteen and Javed's life is changed.

The other plus in his life is an English teacher who believes in his talent even if Javed doesn't see it.

Later on things turn bleak. Vauxhall lays off his dad. Noor has to take on more sewing jobs.

Attacked

His sister Yasmeen wants a wedding, but it is attacked by Nazis. Shazia lifts Javed's spirits when she drags him to a daytime disco.

Blinded By The Light is being marketed by the Warner corporation as the "feelgood hit of the summer!"

Working class British-Asian filmmakers are few and far between, and some rise to the challenge of telling their life stories convincingly in mainstream media.

Director Gurinder Chadha from Southall did this brilliantly with Bhaji On The Beach about a community outing to Blackpool in 1993.



THE MUSIC of Bruce Springsteen lights up the life of Javed and his friends

And in 2003 Bend It Like Beckham contrasted Punjabi and British parental attitudes.

Javed is based on journalist and co-scriptwriter Sarfraz Mansoor's experiences growing up.

His biographical Greetings from Bury Park—Race, Religion and Rock'n'Roll is about his teen fixation with Springsteen.

So much about working class life, racism and ambition rings true here, particularly the handling of gender issues. But there are too many plot cliches for Blinded By The Light to really punch home its potential. And

the Bollywood-style dance routines are half-hearted.

It doesn't quite reach the heights it could have.

Springsteen's lyrics are an over-used substitute for Javed's dialogue. Like music festival-goers today he mouths his idol's lines in sacred adoration too often. The Nazi violence scene is poorly represented.

Most uncomfortable are the gushing references to the American dream, especially when Javed arrives at US passport control.

This contrasts sharply with Trump's war on migrants today, and

may have been designed to. US audiences seem to be taking it as a two fingered salute to that bigot.

It probably also attests to the US public recovering a degree of class consciousness, and learning that life in Britain is about more than the Cotswolds, tea and Brexit.

However, and in spite of its lapses, this is undoubtedly the kind of anti-racist film that will leave the racists gnashing their teeth fuming. Gurinder and Sarfraz deserve every credit for that.

Blinded by the Light is on general release from 9 August



Javed rocks to his hero's songs

Does Cambridge Analytica doc make a hackish point?

TELEVISION

THE GREAT HACK

Directed by Karim Amer and Jehane Noujaim. On Netflix now

THERE HAVE been many attempts to portray Donald Trump's presidential election victory and the vote for Britain to leave the European Union as linked.

The directors of a film about Tahrir Square and the Egyptian Revolution, The Square, have produced a film about the Cambridge

Analytica scandal that does this explicitly.

The infamous hacking firm's links to the Trump campaign and the Vote Leave campaign have been well-publicised. Yet there is not enough evidence to make the argument convincingly.

The interviews are revealing, as much about Cambridge Analytica figures' perception of themselves as all-powerful as about anything else.

There are serious



Brittany Kaiser

problems with the narrative that Brexit and Trump are linked.

The Great Hack's explanation is that people were duped by shady hackers. This doesn't explain the deeper reasons behind either vote.

But anyone who wants two hours of hate against the arrogance and contempt that permeate the top layers of society, and particularly the tech industry, should look no further.

Alistair Farrow

TELEVISION

ANOTHER LIFE

Available on Netflix

STREAMING SERVICE Netflix throws another sci-fi romp onto the pile with Another Life.

A crew is whizzing through space at faster than the speed of light. Climate change has irreversibly



Katee Sackhoff as Niko Breckinridge

changed Earth.

Interesting political points can't lighten an often leaden script though.

TELEVISION

THE BOYS

Adapted from the comic book written by Garth Ennis. Available on Amazon Prime and elsewhere

EXTREME VIOLENCE and bad language are weapons in the fight against superheros.

This series sees a secret government agency tasked with keeping the murderous "supes" in check.

The baddies are sponsored by a huge corporation. Their supreme unconcern for other people leaves the skin crawling.

Swaggering machismo and sexism are major problems with a programme that could have been far more enjoyable.

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- 1 **System Change Not Climate Change**
Martin Empson (ed)
- 2 **A Rebel's Guide to Alexandra Kollontai**
Emma Davis
- 3 **This is Not a Drill**
Extinction Rebellion
- 4 **Antisemitism—The Far Right, Zionism and The Left**
Rob Ferguson
- 5 **The Revolutionary Ideas of Karl Marx**
Alex Callinicos

Phone 020 7637 1848
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE

THE resistance and uprisings against Nazi rule towards the end of the Second World War is a story that's not often told.

But from Italy and Greece to Slovakia and Poland, people fought to liberate themselves from Nazi occupation and build a society without the squalor of the 1930s.

One of those uprisings—in the Polish capital of Warsaw—happened 75 years ago this month.

It's a story of brave heroism by ordinary people—and betrayal by the rulers of countries credited with winning the war.

The rising drew in tens of thousands of women and men who wanted to free Warsaw from the German forces that had occupied the country in 1939.

At "W Hour"—5pm on 1 August—50,000 members of the underground Home Army rose up across the city.

One Home Army soldier remembered, "The 2 August was the second day of the rising and we marched from the Umschlagplatz to Vola, a nearby district of Warsaw.

"The distance of one or two kilometres was free of Germans, and thousands of people lined the streets, throwing flowers and crying."

Krystyna Fundalinska, a factory worker, remembered, "A group of young men ran in. One of them spoke in a loud voice, 'Ladies and gentlemen, the uprising has started'.

"Everyone started running, who knows where. But I stood still. I could not move, it was as if my feet had grown roots. 'Oh my God, an uprising,' I kept repeating to myself, 'an uprising, The Uprising'."

Brutally

People knew the stakes were high. They had seen how brutally the Nazis put down the Jewish Warsaw Ghetto Uprising the previous year.

Witold, a 16 year old resistance member, remembers, "A series of shots smashed both of my brother's knees. Though he was no longer able to stand on his own, we got him to a nearby hospital.

"Later the Germans units entered the hospital, ordered all the wounded who could walk into the courtyard and shot them, the doctors and nurses also.

"Then they set the building on fire."

The people of Warsaw fought bravely. But two and half months later their fight ended in disastrous defeat. Over 200,000 were killed and the city levelled to the ground.

The Uprising had fallen victim to another battle that was raging in the background.

In the Allied camp the "Big Three"—the US, Russia and



FIGHTERS IN the Polish Home Army during the uprising

WARSAW '44 AN UPRISING BETRAYED

Tens of thousands of people in Warsaw rose up against Nazi rule 75 years ago this month. The heroic action was abandoned by the Allies, writes Tomáš Tengely-Evans



A Home Army soldier

Britain—were fighting over who would control Europe and the world after the war.

And, for all the rhetoric of liberation, ordinary people's aspirations in the occupied countries weren't their concern.

Wrangling, competition, horse trading and manoeuvring between the rulers of these countries left those resisting the Nazis to their fate.

Germany invaded Poland in September 1939. The invasion was part of an



Nazi SS troops murdered up to 50,000 people, street by street, house by house

imperialist carve up between Adolf Hitler and Russian dictator Joseph Stalin.

The German invasion forced Britain to declare war because it too had signed a treaty with Poland in August.

The press dubbed it a "phony war", but the British ruling class had already proved itself to be a phoney ally.

Poland wasn't its first choice of ally against Germany.

In the 1930s Britain's rulers didn't view Hitler as a major

threat. He posed no immediate danger to their empire in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Many admired how fascism had crushed the labour movement.

In fact, in the previous decade Britain had focused on a naval arms race with the US.

But the situation began to shift when Hitler's imperial designs looked like they could upset the balance of power among European states.

Germany became a bigger rival to Britain. While Britain's rulers didn't think war was necessary, they hoped to contain Hitler. In this they already had France as an ally in western Europe, but also wanted an ally in eastern Europe.

SOME sections of the British ruling class had contemplated the idea of an alliance with Russia if it would help defend the British Empire.

The Hitler-Stalin Pact in August 1939 made this impossible. But the situation was spiralling quickly, as Hitler had already annexed Austria and then the whole of Czechoslovakia.

Poland seemed to be the only option of an ally in eastern Europe, and a treaty was signed hastily in response to the pact.

But Britain's rulers let slip that their concern was safeguarding their imperial interests, not defending national independence or fighting fascism.

The last despatch from the British Ambassador Sir Howard Kennard said, "The whole Polish people should at the end of the war have the right to an independent life".

One Foreign Office official wrote in the margin, "I see little prospect of those sections of the Polish people included in the areas taken over by Russia ever being given such an opportunity."

When Russia joined the Allies after the Nazi invasion in 1941, Winston Churchill was keen to make sure Poland wouldn't become a sticking point.

Disastrous

The imperialist rivalries among the Allies would have disastrous consequences for their fight for liberation.

And the politics of the leadership of the resistance limited the struggle.

There was a Polish government-in-exile based in London which represented Poland's old ruling class. Their aim was to become the ruling class again through British support.

The resistance forces in Poland—known as the "Polish Underground State"—came from a much broader base than the old ruling class.

The political leadership included socialists, not aligned with Russia, who were for a different sort of society after

the war. The majority of the resistance united to form the Home Army, which would lead the Warsaw Uprising.

This structure gave great power to the Polish generals and officers who had launched resistance organisations after army's surrender in 1939.

Stanislaw Tabor was a particularly influential general.

He represented a section of Poland's resistance leaders that looked to Russia, against the wishes of the government in exile. "The Soviet Union is going to become the decisive power in all of our territories," he wrote.

"In that situation, we ought to enter agreements with Moscow, make the necessary concessions, and change our orientation from pro-Western to pro-Soviet."

But faith in Russian imperialism was to prove fatal for the uprising.



AFTER THE first four days of the uprising, Nazi reinforcements moved on the city's Wola district on 4 August.

SS troops murdered up to 50,000 civilians, street by street, house by house.

It was a brutal taste of what was the come.

The Home Army still had successes afterwards, but was fighting a defensive and losing battle to keep hold of the territory it had liberated.

Russian forces waited, amassed on the banks of Vistula river in the east of Warsaw.

Stalin had branded the Polish resistance a "handful of criminals".

He had set up a Political Committee of National Liberation, a puppet organisation that would rule Polish territories.

He wanted the uprising to be defeated to make sure there wasn't a force that would challenge future rule by Russia.

Forced

The Home Army was forced to sign a capitulation agreement on 3 October.

The Nazis cleared the whole population of Warsaw—sending many to concentration camps. They totally destroyed the city through bombardment.

After Russian troops entered the destroyed city, Russian secret police rounded up members of the Home Army and

Home Army fighters capture German soldiers (top) but the Nazis destroyed Warsaw after the Uprising was crushed (above)

those who opposed the new rulers.

Stalin's ruthless treatment of a resistance movement wasn't unique among the Allies.

The British did the same in Greece in 1944. With Stalin's agreement, they crushed the left wing resistance movement that had liberated the country from Nazi rule.

A few days after the Warsaw Uprising, the Allies met at the Fourth Moscow Conference to discuss the fate of the rest of Europe.

Churchill drew up an agreement dividing the continent into Western and Russian spheres of influence. What the Allies had done to Poland, they now resolved to do to the other "liberated" countries.



FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENT

How did humans put the planet at risk?

Nick Clark explains the concept of the Anthropocene and asks if it can help us resist environmental destruction

NATURAL DISASTERS and the impact of human society is creating a new climate—and one so drastic it could lead to our own extinction.

It's becoming widely accepted that humans have created a new epoch—a new time period of conditions on Earth.

This is more than just a change in weather. It's a radical transformation in the way the planet's environmental system works.

This new epoch, the Anthropocene, will be defined by the effects of human activity.

Major changes in the Earth's environment caused by human activity have already taken place.

A dramatic increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere over the past 100 years has not only caused global warming, but made seas and lakes more acidic.

This has impacts far beyond a hotter atmospheric temperature. For instance, the rate of extinction of animal species is at least 100 times higher than it would be without human influence.

The invention of synthetic fertilisers has added more nitrogen to the atmosphere.

And traces of plastic, aluminium and radioactive molecules created by nuclear power and weapons can already be found in soil.

Geologists

Many geologists say the changes they detect now are so profound that they indicate the beginning of a new epoch.

But when exactly those changes began—or even if there is a new epoch at all—has been up for debate.

They may seem like academic questions. But this debate is really about what caused the Anthropocene in the first place, what we do about it, and even how we understand our own place in the world.

Some scientists have said



HAVE WE caused a new climate epoch?

the Anthropocene began as long as 11,700 years ago.

And some say that the growth of human civilisation made the Anthropocene inevitable.

But while it's true that humans have always shaped the environment, these arguments obscure the scale of the changes currently taking place.

It's only recently that human intervention has caused such a profound, global shift.

It's partly because of arguments like this that some climate activists reject the idea of the Anthropocene entirely.

Not only does it downplay the scale of the problem, but it also suggests that all humans, throughout history are responsible.

Many more scientists believe the Anthropocene began much more recently.

One theory suggests that the changes were caused by

Only recently has human intervention has caused such a profound, global shift

the spread of colonialism, which so destroyed the societies it encountered that it altered the environment.

Another theory says it began with the growth of industrial capitalism, and its use of steam power and fossil fuels.

But the Anthropocene working group—some 35 scientists tasked with adding the Anthropocene to the geological record—set the marker in the mid-20th century.

Disposable

Changes since the end of the Second World War include the growth of nuclear weapons, the intensification of agriculture, and the widespread use of disposable packaging, to name a few.

The profound effects of all of these can be measured in the soil, rock and glaciers.

All of these theories point to the fact that it isn't human civilisation in general that caused the Anthropocene.

It's a particular type of society—capitalism—which is run by and benefits only a minority of human beings.

The main driver of catastrophic climate change is the practise of industrially burning fossil fuels which developed alongside capitalism.

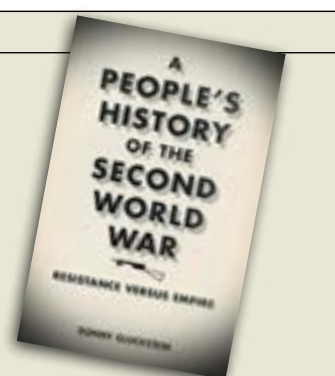
Managing the effects of the Anthropocene, and our influence on the world's environment, means changing that society.

READ MORE

● **A People's History of the Second World War—Resistance Versus Empire**
by Donny Gluckstein
Published by Pluto
£19.99

● **Rising '44—The Battle for Warsaw**
by Norman Davies
Published by Pan
£25

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop.
Phone 020 7637 1848
or go to
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



Indefinite action is going strong in London

by NICK CLARK

CLEANERS AND caterers on indefinite strike at a central London government office are ploughing ahead with an indefinite strike over low pay and outsourcing.

The members of the PCS union at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Beis) entered the third week of their strike on Monday of this week.

Strikers say they will keep going until they get what they want.

They're demanding that outsourcers ISS and Aramark pay them the London Living Wage of £10.55 an hour, and give them improved holiday and sick pay.

Ultimately they want to be brought back in house.

Positive

One striker, Joshua, told Socialist Worker, "We are still positive—we're out indefinitely until they settle our demands."

Strikers say ISS and Aramark haven't approached them for new talks since the action began earlier this



STRIKERS WERE buoyed when more groups of workers joined the walkouts

PICTURE: BEIS PCS LONDON AND SOUTH/TWITTER

month. But they've refused to be worn down. "We'll carry on," said striker Merline. "We trust. We knew it would take time."

"At the moment I don't think anyone is saying they can't be bothered or they don't want to carry on. We're still gathering together strong."

And another striker, Rita,

said, "Everybody is happy, and fighting. We'll keep going because we are right."

The strike is also growing and strengthening the PCS at Beis.

Many of the workers are using their time on strike to take a PCS reps training course.

PCS officials said the course was tailored to help

them organise among the mainly migrant workforce, with translators for those who need them.

The cleaners and caterers were also joined by porters, security and post room staff for five days last week.

Those workers had only joined the fight recently.

But the cleaners and caterers said their arrival on the

picket line boosted them. And they felt the experience had given porters and security staff more confidence to come out again.

"It felt better because the crowd was bigger," said Merline. "I think they'll be up for coming again."

Strikers say they've had lots of support from other branches in the PCS, and

have been invited to speak at union meetings as far away as Leeds.

They also say they've had lots of support on the picket lines, including from non-outsourced workers at Beis.

Support

Rita said, "Our customers, when they come past on their way into work, they all say they support us. That makes us feel good."

Workers hope their fight can give confidence to other workers fighting low pay and privatisation. But they'll need support to keep going and win.

"We know at the end that we won't win without sacrifice," said Joshua.

"We're doing this to achieve something not only for ourselves but for all other people. If we make this possible it will be good for everybody."

"If we win it will stand as an example for others to follow suit. When we stand together and do things together, it goes far."

"With unity and solidarity we can do anything."

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Democrats back Trump's bonanza for the military

As the US Senate prepares to vote on a budget that hands billions of dollars to the military and shafts ordinary people **Alistair Farrow** looks at the political manoeuvres behind it

DONALD TRUMP has secured a deal that puts big business and the military first in the proposed federal budget.

Out of a total of £1.12 trillion, over half is set to go into the military's pockets. This includes a £9 billion increase for "research and development", so the arms industry can come up with deadlier weapons.

And, outrageously, the deal is the result of talks between Trump and the Democratic Party's leadership.

A statement from senior Democrat legislators, Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer, boasted that the arrangement "will enhance our national security and invest in middle class priorities".

The US military was the real winner. It had asked for £600 billion but got "only" £590 billion—an all-time record for defence spending.

The US projects its power around the world through 800 military bases scattered across 70 countries.

In particular, it relies on them to fend off its biggest rival China in the Pacific and the South China Sea.

Power

China still spends much less than half of what the US spends on the military. The leaderships of both the Republican and Democratic parties are committed to maintaining US imperial power.

The budget was voted through the lower House of Congress by 284 to 149 votes. It split the four Democrats known as the "Squad" with Ilhan Omar and Ayanna Pressley voting against but Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Rashida Tlaib voting for.

It now goes to the Senate, and the pressure is on other left wingers



THE US relies on its military to project imperial power across the world

to back the deal. Senator Patrick Leahy said, "I'm worried the House is willing to give him [Trump] far too much discretion to take money and move it anywhere he wants including a border wall".

But Leahy said he would vote for the deal anyway.

The White House issued a statement that said the budget deal included no "poison pills". This was

a reference to measures that would have limited Trump's ability to divert cash from departmental budgets to fund his border wall.

The last time the budget was voted on, the Democrats mounted some opposition to Trump's attacks on migrants. But the budget they voted for gave more funding for ramped-up security on the border anyway.

And Trump has since introduced

emergency legislation that allows him to divert funds to building the wall anyway.

Some Republicans oppose the deal because it doesn't place a limit on borrowing. These free market fanatics object to any increased public spending that benefits ordinary people.

The new budget is also a clear message to Wall Street that the US state will back them to the hilt.

3.1 million could go hungry

AS PRESIDENT Trump signed off yet another deal to benefit the rich, his administration proposed to cut food stamp benefits for 3.1 million people.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program helps US households of at least three people that earn £22,000 a year or less.

The proposed changes would get rid of the parts of the legislation that allow people in work or with some level of



Trump launches benefits attacks

savings to claim the benefit.

The changes will mean 265,000 school children will have to re-apply individually for free school lunches.

It will also place limits on the amount of savings pensioners can have in the bank before they are cut off from free meals.

Trump is willing to spend hundreds of billions for wars and border controls, but his administration wants to save £1.6 billion by cutting food stamps.

Trump boasts of bombings

TRUMP DROPPED the "mother of all bombs"—the most powerful ordinary bomb—on Afghanistan in 2017. Last week he suggested he could drop many more, and kill 10 million Afghans.

He was talking in a press conference with Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan last Monday.

"If I wanted to win that war, Afghanistan would be wiped off the face of the earth," said Trump.

"It would be over in literally in 10 days—I don't want to go that route.

"If we wanted to fight a war in Afghanistan and win it, I could win it in a week. I just don't want to kill 10 million people. Does that make



The 'Mother of All Bombs'

sense to you? I don't want to kill 10 million."

The projected increase in US military spending will fund building the weapons of mass destruction that can make Trump's murderous fantasies a reality.

US tops the list of military spenders

THE TOP ten countries for annual defence spending in 2018, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

- 1 United States £519 billion
- 2 China £200 billion
- 3 Saudi Arabia £54 billion
- 4 India £53 billion
- 5 France £51 billion
- 6 Russia £48 billion
- 7 Britain £40 billion
- 8 Germany £39 billion
- 9 Japan £37 billion
- 10 South Korea £34 billion

FIGURE IT OUT

- 161 billion pounds for the US Navy
- 152 billion dollars for the US Army
- 163 billion dollars for the airforce
- 80 billion dollars for developing weapons
- 8 billion dollars for Pentagon's cyber command

IN BRIEF

Stirring up trouble for Diageo bosses

OVER 500 workers at Diageo drinks manufacturers are set to be balloted for strikes over their annual pay award.

They join 1,500 Unite and GMB union members across Scotland in fighting the bosses' offer of a 2.5 percent pay rise.

Workers rejected a further 2.8 percent pay award made through Acas conciliation service talks.

Unite blasted the firm last week after Diageo announced an increase in pre-tax profits to £4.2 billion yet has failed to offer workers a higher rise.

Building an east London fightback

AROUND 50 council workers in Newham, east London, are set to start a programme of strikes.

The housing maintenance workers voted unanimously to fight over a "myriad of issues" including a new pay structure that could mean pay cuts of up to 20 percent.

The Unite union members are also angry about poor communication about pay deductions and a bullying culture.

The carpenters, electricians and plumbers were set to walk out 2, 5, 23 and 27 August.

A longer wait for employment justice

EMPLOYMENT tribunal claims are taking an average of eight months to be heard, a new study has revealed.

Waiting times have got longer for four consecutive years, with some cases not set to be heard until 2021.

The research, by employment law firm GQ Littler, found there were 35,430 claims last year—a rise of more than a quarter.

The increase has been partly attributed to tribunal fees, which were brought in by the coalition government and were abolished in 2017.

The Courts and Tribunal Service has been forced to refund fees.

A win for victimised Brighton bin rep

THE GMB union has suspended walkouts by refuse workers in Brighton and Hove.

Workers had planned to strike on Monday of this week and on Friday of next week.

The union said the suspension came "in light of an agreement by the council to revoke the continued unfair exclusion of a rep from his workplace".

"The rep has been at the centre of anti-trade union behaviour from some council officers," the union said in a statement.

The workers are employed by the Labour-run Brighton and Hove City Council.

HEALTH WORKERS



HEALTH VISITORS in Lincolnshire have staged defiant walkouts

NHS strike wave over outsourcing and pay

by TOMÁŠ TENGY-EVANS

THE FIGHT against NHS privatisation and low pay is hotting up this summer as health workers prepare for a spate of strikes.

Health visitors in Lincolnshire walked out on Monday of this week and on Thursday and Friday of last week.

The Unite union members were transferred from the NHS to the local county council in October 2017.

Their pay has been frozen since the move—even though both NHS and local government workers received small pay increases during this time.

This has seen some health visitors lose up to £2,000 a year.

Caroline Fisher, a Unite member and health visitor of 37 years, explained that the situation has been made worse by Tory austerity.

"As part of austerity measures pay was frozen for a long time," she said.

"So in all it's about eight years that I've not had a pay increase, and I am at the top of my pay band and I've been there for about five years not getting a pay rise."

Pinches

She added, "This pinches into my pocket and my family's—I should be planning for my retirement this year but instead I'm having to defer it."

The health visitors in Lincolnshire aren't the only group fighting for the same pay as those directly employed by the NHS

Unison union members at



Outside the Bradford Royal Infirmary in July

three hospital trusts in the North West of England plan to walk out on Wednesday.

The workers, who are outsourced to Compass, are demanding NHS Agenda for Change pay and terms and conditions.

The action will hit St Helens and Knowsley teaching hospitals, Blackpool teaching hospitals and Liverpool chest and heart hospitals.

The majority of the cleaners, porters, security guards and other support staff are on the minimum wage of just £8.21 an hour.

But they work alongside other workers, directly employed by the NHS, who are on £9.03 an hour.

This means outsourced workers can receive up to £1,600 a year less.

The disparity in pay is a stark warning of what happens when hospital bosses outsource workers.

It's what around 300 workers at Bradford Teaching Hospitals are fighting to

prevent, with a two-week strike planned from Thursday.

Bosses want to transfer workers to a wholly-owned subsidiary—a privately-registered company whose sole shareholder is the NHS trust.

Such companies are mechanisms to drive down wages and terms and conditions, as a stepping stone to full-blown privatisation down the line.

Tony Pearson, the Unison union's head of health Yorkshire and Humberside said, "The trust continues to put out misleading claims that staff terms and conditions can be guaranteed for 25 years."

"Yet acting chief executive John Holden openly admitted in a meeting with Unison representatives last Tuesday that the Trust could not legally guarantee these claims."

The workers, who have already struck for a week, have shown that they are determined to win.

Every trade unionist should support their struggle.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Unions start pay campaign

TRADE UNIONS representing local government workers submitted a 10 percent pay claim last week.

Unison, Unite and GMB unions represent 1.4 million employees in schools and councils in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Rehana Azam, GMB national secretary, said, "Our members deserve a real pay rise."

"It's high time the government started properly investing in our public services and local government."

The unions say the claim for the year from next April would see the lowest paid workers earning at least £10 an hour.

They are also demanding a one-day increase to annual leave, a two-hour cut in working week and a review of workplace causes of stress and mental health issues.

The unions said the claim would start to address almost a decade of austerity that has seen services slashed and wages frozen.

Jim Kennedy, Unite national officer for local government, said, "Our members have seen their pay cut in real terms by 22 percent since 2010. They



Rehana Azam

need a substantial pay lift in recognition of the dedicated work that they do to keep council services running smoothly 24/7."

Workers are coming to the end of a two-year pay deal which included a 2 percent increase each year for most workers, with more for the lowest paid.

Local government unions demanded 5 percent two years ago, but eventually settled for much less.

It's a welcome step that the national leaderships are now demanding more—but now they need to lead a fight to win it.

CLEANERS

Living Wage ballots open

THE UNITED Voices of the World union (UVW) is balloting workers for a summer of strikes over the Living Wage.

Ballots over walkouts will be held in the White Chapel building, University of Greenwich and St Mary's Hospital, all in London.

Workers employed by the Royal Parks, including Richmond Park and

Buckingham Palace, are among those set to vote.

They are paid an hourly rate of just £8.21, well below the London Living Wage of £10.55.

Cleaners at the Ministry of Justice—also members of UVW—have already voted overwhelmingly to strike.

Some 92 percent of workers that took part in the ballot voted to take action.

SCHOOLS

Moulsecoomb workers say yes to academies battle

WORKERS AT Moulsecoomb primary school in Brighton could strike against a plan to turn the school into an academy.

NEU, GMB and Unison union members at the school have all unanimously voted for strikes against the plan.

The Department for Education (DfE) has threatened to forcibly academise the school after the schools inspectorate Ofsted branded it "inadequate" in May.

The plan has generated widespread opposition from workers and parents.

Some 300 people joined a protest against it earlier this month. Ian Stevenson, an NEU rep in the South East, has written to the DfE asking it to halt the conversion.

He said he is "extremely concerned" that the school would not improve if run by a private firm.

"Research shows that local authorities have a much better record at improving schools and doing so more rapidly," he said.

Stevenson called for a new Ofsted inspection.

He added that turning the school into an academy risks disrupting work being done by new head teacher Adam Sutton.

Brighton and Hove NEU rep Paul Shellard said converting the school into an academy would be "disruptive and expensive".

"Moulsecoomb is not a failing school but one that needs funding and support," he said.

ROYAL MAIL

Plymouth postal workers stage unofficial walkouts

by NICK CLARK

POSTAL WORKERS at a Royal Mail delivery office in Plymouth returned to work victorious after a three-day unofficial strike last week.

Members of the CWU union at the West Park delivery office walked out without an official ballot last Wednesday, alleging bullying and harassment by a manager.

They only went back to work on Saturday after three days of action forced bosses to the table and won an agreement.

CWU Plymouth and East Cornwall branch secretary Ralph Ferrett told Socialist Worker, "I would like to salute the strength of our members who took three days of action."

"The CWU was very disappointed at the length of time it took to reach an agreement."

"However the union and the members in the office are very satisfied with the comprehensive return to work agreement."

Weeks

The strike was the third unofficial walkout in Devon and Cornwall in recent weeks.

Workers at Royal Mail delivery offices in Ivybridge in Devon, and Bude in Cornwall, also took action over bullying and harassment.

They're the latest in a string of walkouts at Royal Mail workplaces across Britain over a culture of bullying.

Many activists feel bullying is getting worse—and could lead to a



CWU UNION members outside the delivery office

national dispute. "After three walkouts in our area—two of them at quiet rural delivery offices—it's time that Royal Mail address the way their workers are treated at work," said Ralph.

In another sign of spreading anger, CWU members at the Shirley delivery office in Southampton voted by 91 percent last week for industrial action.

National

It came as CWU deputy general secretary postal Terry Pullinger told union reps to prepare for a national industrial action ballot.

Royal Mail top bosses are breaking from an agreement struck with the CWU early 2018, which promised a "change in culture".

It also promised a shorter working week linked to pay rises and "savings" in Royal Mail workplaces.

But in two video messages to CWU members last week, Pullinger said talks over the shorter working week had "gone backwards".

And he said that the union wanted external mediation.

Pullinger also said, "We are still having walkouts in certain offices, where members are defending themselves because of managers bullying and harassing them."

"The culture is not changing. It's another aspect of our agreement that's not being delivered and we have to stand up and defend ourselves."

"Get ready to start getting your membership records straight in case we get to a situation where we have to deliver a ballot."

RAIL ROUND-UP

Rail safety fight is back on track

STRIKES AGAINST Driver-Only Operated (DOO) trains could be on the cards after guards on the South Western Railway voted by 86 percent to resume action.

DOO train services threaten passenger and worker safety.

The RMT transport union members have voted overwhelmingly five times to fight the mass rollout of trains that don't have a second safety-critical member of staff on board.

■ **A SECOND** strike on East Midlands Train saw workers walk out for "pay and workplace justice" last Saturday.

The RMT union members were "rock solid, united and determined" against attacks from rail franchise operator Stagecoach.

Workers planned a further strike this Saturday.

■ **WORKERS ON** the Caledonian Scottish Sleeper rail service are ready to fight "intolerable pressure on staff" after returning huge votes for action.

The RMT union members voted by over 80 percent for strikes over conditions on the new £150 million train fleet run by outsourcer Serco.

The union said workers are suffering from workplace stress and mental health issues.

Workers said that insufficient staffing levels, insufficient training and unresponsive management have contributed to a "complete breakdown in industrial relations".

AIRPORTS

Stanstead fight is off

A STRIKE at Stansted Airport was grounded on Friday of last week as workers voted on a new offer.

The 43 check-in staff, members of the Unite union, are employed by Stobart Aviation Services. They had been due to start a 72-hour strike over pay.

■ **OVER 90** fire and rescue workers at Heathrow Airport have voted by 97.6 percent for strikes over pay.

The Unite union members were set to walk out next Monday and Tuesday.

In a separate dispute, Unite suspended a planned strike by 4,000 Heathrow airport workers.

Bosses put forward a new pay offer after talks at conciliation service Acas.

LGBT+ RIGHTS

Tories lent on school to suspend LGBT+ lessons

THE TORY government put "extreme pressure" on a primary school to drop LGBT+ lessons, according to school bosses.

Parkfield Community School in Birmingham suspended its No Outsiders programme amid homophobic protests. This included teaching about LGBT+ relationships as part of the Equality Act 2010.

Hazel Pulley, chief executive of the academy trust that runs Parkfield school, described "frantic phone calls" from the Department for Education (DfE).

"The DfE really wanted the protests to stop," she said. "We experienced

extreme pressure to stop No Outsiders."

"We feel it was only with one aim, and that was to keep the protests out of the paper and to stop the protests."

The protests, organised by homophobes Amir Ahmer and Shakeel Afsar, spread to Anderton Park School in Birmingham.

Other bigots have tried to spread opposition to schools in east London.

LGBT+ inclusive relationship and sex education should be taught in all schools to all children.

And parents should not have the right to withdraw their children from the lessons.

PRIDE

Bigot shouts, 'Shame on you people,' at Pride marchers in Waltham Forest

HUNDREDS OF people joined the Waltham Forest Pride in north London on Saturday of last week.

People danced through the streets and partied afterwards.

A row erupted after one homophobic woman wearing a niqab shouted, "Shame on you, you despicable people."

And she quoted a line popularised by Alan Partridge, saying, "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve."

Police have said that they are looking into the incident.

Right wing columnist Katie Hopkins jumped on the incident to spread Islamophobia. The Waltham Forest Pride organising



Pride in Waltham Forest

PICTURE: DEAN RYAN

committee said, "It's comes as no surprise that far right commentators like Katie Hopkins have seized on this video to stigmatise the Muslim community."

"We utterly condemn any attempts to use this incident to fan the flames of discord. We will continue to work

with the Muslim community and value their support, because none of us are free until all of us are free."

Hopkins is a bigot who was photographed with organisers of homophobic protests against LGBT+ education at a school in Birmingham.

NO MORE RACIST SERCO LOCKOUT

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

ANTI-RACISTS are demanding an immediate stop to the mass eviction threat facing up to 300 asylum seekers in Glasgow.

Outsourcer Serco, which runs asylum seeker housing for the Home Office, made an Iranian and an Iraqi man homeless last week.

The two were forced to seek help from the Scottish Refugee Council after locks on their doors were changed.

Serco has sent letters to other asylum seekers informing them that it will also change their locks.

Throw

The move is designed to allow housing bosses to throw out up to 300 people without a court order, a requirement for evictions under Scottish law.

Ahmed, a Syrian refugee who came to Britain in a lorry in 2011, is one of the asylum seekers who received the letters. He said, "If I go back home now and the locks are changed, what can I do?"

"There are so many other



PEOPLE IN Glasgow protesting against Serco last year

PICTURE: DUNCAN BROWN

people suffering like this too."

Other people who've been threatened with a lock change include a 72 year old Syrian man.

Graham O'Neill, policy officer at the Scottish Refugee

Council, called for an immediate end to the policy.

"We urge Serco to stop making people homeless and stop spreading fear and anxiety among people seeking protection in Scotland," he said.

"The men and women living in Serco accommodation are here because their lives are at risk in their home countries.

"People who have been refused refugee protection by the British government are

not allowed to work or apply for benefits and have no means to support themselves.

"Making people in this situation street homeless is absolutely unacceptable."

The Sheriff's courts have granted at least 40 people

a reprieve since Serco announced the lock-change policy last summer.

But it is determined to push through the evictions before new subcontractor Mears takes over the housing in September.

Mears has said it wants to take over empty properties.

The lock changes show that it will take more than legal action to stop Serco throwing people onto the street.

Solidarity

A solidarity protest by the Glasgow No Evictions Campaign and Living Rent Glasgow tenants' union stopped an eviction in June.

Serco told a woman to leave, but didn't turn up to her house after protesters held the protest outside.

More action like this is needed if Serco tries to throw any more people out.

And there needs to be a fight against the British state's racist immigration rules, which try to make life as hard as possible for migrants.

All asylum seekers should be granted indefinite leave to remain.

Nazi figurehead in jail, but protests show far right threat hasn't gone away

FASCISTS AND racists planned to hold a "Free Tommy" protest on Oxford Street in central London on Saturday.

Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) and Unite Against Fascism have called a counter-protest against the supporters of Nazi Tommy Robinson.

They called the protest after Robinson was jailed last month.

He was found guilty of contempt of court after broadcasting outside a child sexual abuse trial and confronting defendants at court in Leeds last May.

This breached reporting restrictions,



Opposing Robinson's supporters

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

which could have caused the trial to collapse.

Robinson was hoping to whip up racism by pushing the lie that Muslim or Asian "culture" is to blame for sexism and abuse.

The "Free Tommy" protests since his jailing have been smaller than previous ones.

Robinson has suffered a number of humiliations since he lost his candidate's deposit in European elections in May.

Around 80 fascists organised a banner drop and protest at Arndale shopping centre in Manchester last Saturday.

On the same day only eight of his supporters

turned up outside Sunderland police station in the North East. This was half the number that turned up to a "flash mob" in Durham last week.

Despite the small turnouts, the far right threat has not gone away.

Jailed

When Robinson was jailed last year his supporters managed to mobilise 15,000 people onto the streets of central London.

He still draws international support from the US alt right.

A reminder of where its politics leads came at the Gilroy Garlic Festival shooting in California

last Sunday. Santino William Legan, who killed three people and injured at least 12 others, was influenced by the far right.

The far right is fuelled by state-sponsored racism.

Boris Johnson's new government has made clear that it will pump out more racism.

And leading members of the Robinson camp celebrated the Islamophobe becoming prime minister.

Anti-fascists must not allow Robinson to regroup, and should turn out in London this Saturday.

For details go to "Oppose fascist Tommy Robinson and his Nazi friends" on Facebook